

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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CU-02 SCA-01 OES-03 DHA-02 /092 W
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P R 290840Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 400

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN (BY POUCH)

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST (BY POUCH)

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST (BY POUCH)

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW (BY POUCH)

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE (BY POUCH)

AMEMBASSY WARSAW (BY POUCH)

AMEMBASSY LONDON (BY POUCH)

USNATO BRUSSELS (BY POUCH)

AMEMBASSY BONN (BY POUCH)

US MISSION BERLIN (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SOFIA 2372

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPH THREE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE

SUBJECT: MONITORING OF WARSAW PACT CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A) STATE 231043; B) SOFIA 1648; C) SOFIA 2229;

D) SOFIA 2104; E) SOFIA 2295

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS BASELINE FOR FUTURE ASSESSMENTS
OF PROGRESS, IF ANY, ATTRIBUTABLE TO CSCE, WE SUBMIT
"SNAPSHOT" OF BULGARIA REQUESTED REFTEL A, BEGINNING
WITH REVIEW OF OFFICIAL BULGARIAN POLICY AND FOLLOWED
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BY SECTION OF GENERAL COMMENT ON PUBLIC ATTITUDE.

RESPONSE TO "CHECKLIST" BEGINS
WITH PARA 7, WITH CAPTIONS AND ALPHABETICAL DESIGNATIONS
OF SUB-PARAS SAME AS THOSE USED REFTEL A. END SUMMARY.

2. OFFICIAL ATTITUDE. BULGARIAN LEADERS AND MEDIA
GREETED SIGNING OF FINAL ACT IN HELSINKI WITH EXTRAVAGANT
PRAISE (REFTEL B), DIRECTED MOSTLY TOWARD PROVISIONS OF
BASKET I. MIXED WITH THIS WAS ZHIVKOV WARNING THAT
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE DID NOT EXTEND TO IDEOLOGICAL
FIELD, SUBSEQUENTLY ELABORATED UPON BY HIS DAUGHTER
LYUDMILA, IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR
ART AND CULTURE (REFTEL C). THESE FACETS HAVE DOMINATED
OFFICIAL ATTITUDE AND PRESS TREATMENT DESPITE FONMIN
MLADENOV'S STATEMENT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT GOB DID
NOT BELIEVE PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ONE AREA OR
ELEMENT, BUT THAT ALL WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT (REFTEL D).

3. GOB HAS REITERATED MANY TIMES IT WILL STRICTLY
ADHERE TO FINAL ACT, BUT HAS NEVER BEEN SPECIFIC ABOUT
ANY OBLIGATION ASSUMED UNDER AGREEMENT. COMPLETE TEXT
OF FINAL ACT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED DESPITE ASSURANCES
TO AMBASSADOR LAST AUGUST THAT THIS WOULD SOON BE DONE.
PRESS AT TIME OF HELSINKI SUMMIT DID CARRY COMPREHEN-
SIVE SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF ALL BASKETS IN FINAL ACT,
BUT EMPHASIS THEN AS SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ON BASKET I. IN
ANY EVENT, CSCE HAS YET TO PRODUCE ANY OBVIOUS CHANGE
IN BULGARIAN BEHAVIOR OR ATTITUDE.

4. PUBLIC ATTITUDE AND OPINION. WE HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA
OF WHAT THE BULGARIAN PUBLIC THINK OF CSCE OR SEES AS
ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM. THOSE DEPENDENT UPON
BULGARIAN MEDIA WILL SEE ONLY THE OFFICIAL LINE NOTED
ABOVE, DTT FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS MAY HAVE PROVIDED
DIFFERENT PICTURE FOR SOME, EMBASSY HAS HAD
EXTREMELY LIMITED NUMBER OF CASES WHERE BULGARIANS
HOPING FOR VISAS AND EXIT PERMITS HAVE MENTIONED
CSCE, BUT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC
EXPECTATIONS OR PRESSURES HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY
SIGNING OF FINAL ACT.

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5. IN GENERAL, BULGARIAN ATTITUDE TENDS TO BE DOCILE
AND APATHETIC, COWED BY TIGHT POLITICAL AND POLICE
CONTROLS ON ONE HAND AND LURED BY LIMITED BUT
INCREASING PROSPECTS OF BETTER MATERIAL LIFE ON
ANOTHER. PEOPLE ARE NEITHER SEETHING WITH DISCONTENT
NOR HOPEFUL OF GREAT CHANGE, AND THERE IS NO VISIBLE
DISSIDENT INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH MANY
UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAPPILY LEAVE THE COUNTRY, AT LEAST

FOR VISITS, VERY FEW WILL CHALLENGE THE SYSTEM.
SIMILARLY, DESIRE FOR WESTERN PUBLICATIONS OR
CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS IS DAMPENED BY THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT THIS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY WITHOUT A DRAMATIC
CHANGE IN THE REGIME'S PATTERN OF RIGOROUS CONTROL.
LACK OF DOMESTIC PRESSURES MAKES IT EASIER FOR REGIME MAINTAIN ITS
CONTROLS AND MAKES LESS LIKELY EITHER
INTERNAL CONFRONTATIONS OR CHANGE IN PRACTICES DUE
TO CSCE.

6. IN SUM, IN OUR JUDGMENT IT WILL BE SOVIET UNION'S
ACTIONS THAT WILL LARGELY DETERMINE WHAT BULGARIA'S
CSCE POLICY WILL BE, AND BULGARIA WILL FOLLOW LEAD
OF USSR WITH ONLY MINOR VARIATIONS, AND POSSIBLY
SOME DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION.

7. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US BUSINESSMEN.

A. ACCESS TO BUSINESS CONTACTS IS NARROW, AT
FIRST USUALLY LIMITED TO FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS.
ACCESS TO END-USERS OR RESEARCHERS TAKES TIME AND
REPEAT CALLS; OFTEN US BUSINESSMAN HIMSELF DOESN'T
KNOW IF HE HAS MET "RIGHT" PERSONS. INDIVIDUALS
CHANGE POSITIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE REORGANIZED
FREQUENTLY AND WITHOUT NOTICE, DESTROYING CONTINUITY
OF CONTACT AND ADDING TO FRUSTRATION. IN SUM,
BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE KEEPS THE FOREIGN
BUSINESSMAN AT ARM'S LENGTH, LIMITS HIS CONTACTS,
AND WORKS TO KEEP HIM IGNORANT OF DECISION-MAKING
PROCESS.

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P R 290840Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 401
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNATO BRUSSELS 421
AMEMBASSY BONN

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B. POSSIBILITIES FOR ESTABLISHING PERMANENT OFFICES ARE ALMOST NIL. SHELL, BANK OF NAPLES, AND MITSUI HAVE REPRESENTATIVES HERE, WHOSE STATUS IS NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR. LUFTHANSA AND BEA HAVE AIRLINE REPS IN SOFIA ON AN EXCHANGE BASIS WITH BALKANAIR. OTHER FIRMS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY DISCOURAGED FROM TRYING TO ESTABLISH REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES HERE AND INSTEAD HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO INTERPRED, AN OFFICIAL BULGARIAN ORGANIZATION WHICH REPRESENTS WESTERN BUSINESSES. THOSE BUSINESSMEN WHO TRY TO STAY ON THEIR VISITOR'S VISAS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE CANNOT FIND OFFICE SPACE AND ARE GENERALLY REFUSED VISA EXTENSIONS.

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C. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE TIGHT, COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVELY INADEQUATE, AND BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL PREMISES UNOBTAINABLE (SEE PART B). HOTEL SPACE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMEWHAT INADEQUATE, BUT IS PARTICULARLY SO NOW WITH ONE MAJOR HOTEL CLOSED FOR REPAIRS.. COMMUNICATIONS ARE SLOW BUT GENERALLY WORK; INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES SEEM TO LACK PEOPLE WITH MUCH FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAPABILITY.

D. AVAILABILITY OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION IS POOR. WHEN NOT CONSIDERED A STATE SECRET, IT IS USUALLY INCOMPLETE, INADEQUATE, AND SLOPPILY PREPARED. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ARE VERY SLOW, BUT LISTS OF FOREIGN TRADE ENTITIES AND INFORMATION ON FOREIGN TRADE LAWS ARE GENERALLY AVAILABLE. LISTS OF KEY OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN TRADE ENTITIES ARE NON-EXISTENT, AND OBTAINING SUCH INFORMATION IS EXTREMELY TIME-CONSUMING. ORGANIZATION CHARTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. THERE ARE LARGE GAPS IN

STATISTICAL INFORMATION, AND METHODS OF CALCULATION ARE NEVER EXPLAINED. ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROJECTIONS ARE RELEASED IRREGULARLY AND IN HAPHAZARD MANNER.

E. INFORMATION ON VARIETY AND NUMBER OF COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH US AND OTHER WESTERN FIRMS IS SEVERELY LIMITED BY BULGARIAN SECRETIVENESS. NUMBER OF COOPERATIVE

ARRANGEMENTS DEPENDS ON HOW THEY ARE DEFINED, BUT EVEN MOST LIBERAL DEFINITION WOULD KEEP FIGURE WELL BELOW 100.

8. FAMILY MEETINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS. CLEAR DISTINCTION MUST BE DRAWN BETWEEN BULGARIANS WISHING TO VISIT OR JOIN RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES WHO LEFT BULGARIA "LEGALLY" AND THOSE WHO LEFT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED ILLEGAL BY GOB. FORMER APPEAR TO BE ALLOWED RELATIVE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL; LATTER LARGELY COMPRISE "DIVIDED FAMILY" PROBLEM.

A. DURING 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 1, 1975, EMBASSY ISSUED 96 NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS TO BULGARIANS TRAVELING TO VISIT RELATIVES WHO HAD LEFT BULGARIA LEGALLY. THERE WAS A SURGE DURING JULY AND AUGUST, BUT THIS IS SEASONAL
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AND THEN PROBABLY UNRELATED TO CSCE. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE COMPARABLE STATISTICS, BUT MOST AGREE THAT TRAVEL BY PERSONS IN THIS CLASSIFICATION APPEARS RELATIVELY FREE. IN LATE 1974, EMBASSY FOR FIRST TIME ISSUED NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS TO TWO BULGARIANS TRAVELING TO VISIT RELATIVES WHO HAD LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY. WE BELIEVE THESE WERE DIRECT RESULT OF HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS ON DIVIDED FAMILY PROBLEM MADE TO THE GOB IN SPRING (DENT VISIT) AND LATE SUMMER OF 1974. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES AGREE POLICY TOWARD BULGARIANS WISHING TO VISIT ESCAPEES IS EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE. ONLY AUSTRIANS REPORT SUCCESSFUL CASES (THREE OR FOUR) WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTE TO CONSTANT AND PERSISTENT BADGERING OF GOB AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY AT ALL LEVELS ON SPECIFIC CASES.

B. WITH EXCEPTION OF BI-NATIONAL MARRIAGE CASES, DISCUSSED MORE FULLY BELOW, EMBASSY DURING FIRST HALF 1975 ISSUED TWO IMMIGRANT VISAS TO BULGARIANS TO JOIN SPONSORS BOTH OF WHOM HAD LEFT BULGARIA LEGALLY. EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF EVER HAVING ISSUED IMMIGRANT (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM VISITORS) VISA TO PERSON WHOSE SPONSOR LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES REPORT SIMILAR EXPERIENCE.

C. BULGARIANS DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND
NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, BUT OTHERWISE EMBASSY DISCERN
NO SIGNIFICANT DISCRIMINATION AS REGARDS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
AND VISAS ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF DESTINATION OR ORIGIN.

D. EMBASSY HAS NO RECENT EVIDENCE THAT APPLICANTS
ACTUALLY SUFFER PENALTIES OR DISCRIMINATION, BUT WE DO NOT
RULE OUT POSSIBILITY SANCTIONS MAY EXIST. IN ANY CASE,
FEAR SUCH DIFFICULTIES MAY ARISE NO DOUBT INHIBITS
APPLICANTS.

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P R 290840Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 402
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
47\$(-4/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 1655
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNATO BRUSSELS 422
AMEMBASSY BONN

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3. STANDARD CHARGES FOR PERMANENT DEPARTURE APPLI-
CATIONS INCLUDE A 5 LEVA APPLICATION FEE; 85 LEVA PASSPORT
FEE, AND APPROXIMATELY 20 LEVA FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES SUCH
AS COPIES OF DOCUMENTS, AUTHENTICATIONS AND NOTARIAL

SERVICES. (\$1.00 EQUALS 1.20 BULGARIAN LEVA.) CHARGES FOR TEMPORARY DEPARTURE DOCUMENTATION ARE SOMEWHAT LESS.

F. RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF PERSONS HOLDING VALID VISITORS' VISAS INVOLVE ONLY THE USUAL REGISTRATION WITH POLICE FOR ANY OVERNIGHT STAY AND REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL PERMISSION TO ENTER BORDER AREAS. THESE ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS RESTRICTIONS ON GENERAL POPULATION AND NOT EXCESSIVELY INHIBITING. SPECIAL DISPENSATION IS REQUIRED TO ENTER CERTAIN AREAS, MOSTLY ALONG BORDER, BUT IS GENERALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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FORTHCOMING IN BONA FIDE CASES.

G. CASES OF EMERGENCY TRAVEL TO VISIT RELATIVES WHO HAVE LEFT BULGARIA LEGALLY ARE HANDLED ON A PRIORITY BASIS. IN EMBASSY'S SINGLE RECENT EXPERIENCE, TRAVEL PERMISSION AND DOCUMENTATION WAS ISSUED IN FOUR DAYS AS OPPOSED TO 60 TO 90 DAYS NORMALLY REQUIRED. TO OUR OR OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES' KNOWLEDGE, AN EMERGENCY OR HUMANITARIAN SITUATION HAS NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED BY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES TO BE AMELIORATING FACTOR WHEN PERSON TO BE VISITED LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY.

H. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE IS NO LIMITATION ON SHIPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL EFFECTS ONCE EXIT PERMISSION HAS BEEN OBTAINED. THERE ARE SEVERE AND OFTEN DISABLING RESTRICTIONS ON EXCHANGE AND TRANSFER OF PERSONAL FUNDS.

9. BINATIONAL MARRIAGES.

A. DURING FIRST SIX

MONTHS OF 1975, THERE WERE SIX MARRIAGES BETWEEN AMERICAN MALES AND BULGARIAN FEMALES, AND EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THREE PENDING CASES. BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES RAISE NO OBSTACLES TO SUCH MARRIAGES UNLESS THERE IS A COMPLICATING FACTOR SUCH AS UNPAID "DEBT" TO THE GOB (NORMALLY INCURRED THROUGH PROVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION) OR WHEN A MEMBER OF HUSBAND'S OR WIFE'S FAMILY LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES, WHICH HAVE APPRECIABLY HIGHER INCIDENCE OF SUCH MARRIAGES, REPORT SIMILAR EXPERIENCE. ACCORDING TO WESTERN COLLEAGUES, MARRIAGES BETWEEN BULGARIAN MEN AND FOREIGN WOMEN ARE NOT PROHIBITED BUT ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED, AND WHEN ALLOWED BULGARIAN HUSBAND IS USUALLY NOT GIVEN PERMISSION TO JOIN HIS WIFE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO CASES OF AMERICAN WOMEN MARRYING BULGARIAN MEN.

B. THE COMMENTS UNDER PARA 8, FAMILY MEETINGS AND

REUNIFICATIONS, APPLY.

10. TRAVEL FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REASONS. IT
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SHOULD BE NOTED GOB PURSUES CLEAR, INTENTIONAL, AND FOR
MOST PART SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO LIMIT ACCESS OF
BULGARIAN TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED
THROUGH USE OF POLICE "GUARDS" WHO DISCOURAGE VISITS BY
BULGARIANS AND THROUGH INSTRUCTIONS TO CITIZENS TO APPLY
FOR FOREIGN MTSAS THROUGH BULGARIAN MFA.

A. FOLLOWING FIGURES ARE FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF
1975 AND INCLUDE BULGARIAN NATIONALS ONLY:

US VISAS FOR PERSONAL TRAVEL	91
US VISAS FOR OFFICIAL GOB TRAVEL (A&G)	27
US VISAS FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL	120

NO NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS WERE REFUSED TO BULGARIAN
APPLICANTS DURING THIS PERIOD.

B. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE TOWARD SIMPLIFICATION
AMO FLEXIBILITY IN ADMINISTRATION OF EXIT AND ENTRY
PROCESSES WITH EXCEPTION THAT, WITH ENTERING INTO
FORCE OF AMERICAN-BULGARIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT ON
MAY 28, 1975, BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO
CONSIDER POACession OF VALID US PASSPORT CONTAINING
VALID BULGARIAN VISA OBTAINED OUTSIDE BULGARIA AS PRIMA

FACIE EVIDENCE OF PRIMACY OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP IN
POTENTIAL DUAL NATIONAL CASES.

C. THERE HAS BEEN NO EASING OF REGULATIONS
CONCERNING MOVEMENT OF AMERICANS WITHIN BULGARIA. SEE

ALSO ITEM F, FAMILY MEETINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS.

D. IN NOVEMBER 1974, GOB PROMULGATED A NEW SCHEDULE
OF FEES AND MONSWARY REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS AND
TOURISTS TO BULGARIA WHICH, ALONG WITH A REVALUATION OF
THE LEVA, SUBSTANTIALLY RAISED COST OF BULGARIAN VISAS
AND REQUIRES
TOURISTSTO EXCHANGE MINIMUM OF 10 US
DOLLARS OR EQUIVALENT HARD CURRENCY FOR EACH DAY OF STAY
IN BULGARIA.
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P R 290840Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 403

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNATO BRUSSELS 423

AMEMBASSY BONN

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11. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

A. NO RPT NO US NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES ARE OFFERED FOR PUBLIC SALE, NOT EVEN "THE WORLD." NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES FROM OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES SOLD PUBLICLY ARE LIMITED TO COMMUNIST PARTY PUBLICATIONS. THERE IS VERY LIMITED DIRECT IMPORT OF US AND WESTERN BOOKS, MOSTLY TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS ON DIRECT, INDIVIDUAL ORDER.

B. THOSE WESTERN COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE SOLD IN HOTELS CATERING TO FOREIGN VISITORS. THERE ARE WESTERN PUBLICATIONS IN SOME PUBLIC

LIBRARIES, BUT ACCESS REQUIRES A "LIBRARY CARD" WHICH MEANS THAT READERS HAVE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES, WHICH SERVES CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DISCOURAGE ACCESS. ALSO, SOME PUBLICATIONS ARE GIVEN ONLY TO HOLDERS OF SPECIALS CARDS. IN ADDITION, SOME INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES MAINTAIN WESTERN PUBLICATIONS FOR CLEARED STAFF MEMBERS.

C. POSSIBILITY OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO WESTERN PUBLICATIONS DOES NOT EXIST FOR GENERAL PUBLIC. APPARENTLY OFFICIALS ABOVE A CERTAIN LEVEL AND SPECIALISTS AND TECHNICIANS IN GIVEN FIELDS HAVE ACCESS TO SUBSCRIPTIONS ON A "NEED TO KNOW" BASIS.

D. WESTERN FILMS SHOWN ARE LIMITED AND TEND TO BE THOSE WHICH WILL PORTRAY WEST, PARTICULARLY US, IN TERMS OF STEREOTYPED COMMUNIST CONCEPTS, E.G. DEGENERATE AND DEPRAVED. EXAMPLES ARE "MIDNIGHT COWBOY" AND "THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY?". BULGARIAN TV OCCASIONALLY HAS NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND "HARMLESS" WESTERN ADVENTURE OR HISTORICAL FICTION FILMS AND HAS ALSO RUN SOME NOTED WESTERN CULTURAL SERIES, E.G. "AGE OF KINGS" AND KENNETH CLARK'S "CIVILIZATION".

E. ONLY RFE BULGARIAN BROADCASTS ARE NOW JAMMED.

F. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO SUCCESS IN PLACEMENT OF US FILMS, TV MATERIAL, AND RADIO ITEMS (OR PRESS MATERIAL, FOR THAT MATTER).

12. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US JOURNALISTS.

A. NO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ARE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED IN BULGARIA, AND VISITS BY AMERICAN NEWSMEN ARE INFREQUENT. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR SUCH VISITS DURING PAST YEAR. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF ANY REJECTION OF VISAS FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS.

B. MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS ARE NOT ACCORDED. NEITHER, HOWEVER, ARE WE AWARE OF ANY HAVING BEEN REQUESTED.

C. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY FORMAL RESTRICTIONS ON JOURNALISTS' TRAVEL.

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D. ACCESS TO OFFICIAL SOURCES IS CONTROLLED AND LIMITED, IN PART THROUGH PRACTICE THAT APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE THROUGH SOFIA PRESS, AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION AGENCY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THERE IS LACK OF INTEREST OR RELUCTANCE ON PART OF OFFICIALS IN MEETING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. INTERVIEWS ACCORDED ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY GENERAL, GUARDED, AND WARY. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO ACCESS TO PRIVATE SOURCES.

E. ONLY PRINT REPORTERS HAVE VISITED BULGARIA RECENTLY, SO QUESTION OF EQUIPMENT HAS NOT ARISEN.

F. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY VOA CORRESPONDENT HAS ATTEMPTED TOICNFXSTORIES DIRECTLY FROM BULGARIA RECENTLY. HE WAS NOT HINDERED, BUT WAS CHARGED MORE THAN \$200 PER "FEED".

G. NO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED.

13. CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES.

BULGARIANS HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR INCREASE IN EXCHANGES, PRIMARILY IN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL FIELDS. BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH US IS NOW BEING NEGOTIATED. SIMILAR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REACHED WITH MANY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA02372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0929
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975109/aaaaahzg.tel
Line Count: 575
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MONITORING OF WARSAW PACT CSCE IMPLEMENTATION
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, WTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006